[22nd November 1955

Loans for water-supply scheme

* 2732 Q.—SRI M. K. PADMAPRABHA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any action has been taken or is proposed to be taken in regard to the request of the Kalpetta and Manantoddy panchayat boards for loans to implement the water-supply scheme; and

(*b*) if so, what?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY: (*a*) & (*b*) No request for a loan to implement the water-supply scheme has been made in respect of Manantoddy Panchayat. The Kalpetta Panchayat has suggested a protected water-supply scheme at Kalpetta, half the cost being met by Government as grant and the other half being given as loan to the panchayat. The proposal regarding the provision of protected water-supply to the Kalpetta Panchayat under the Local Development Works Programme is under the consideration of the Collector of Malabar. The question of granting a loan to the panchayat can be considered only after the work is sanctioned.

Industrial co-operatives for Harijan labourers

* 2733 Q.—SRI P. G. MANICKAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state the number of industrial co-operatives started and in operation for the benefit of Harijan labourers?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: Nine, Sir.

Payment of salaries to elementary school teachers

* 2734 Q.—SRI K. MADHAVAN NAMBIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any representations from the Aided Elementary School Teachers' Union, Malabar, about the hardships suffered by the teachers of Ponnani taluk on account of the undue delay in payment of their salary for February and March 1955 due to the negligence of certain Sub-Postmasters of Ponnani taluk; and

(*b*) if so, what action has been taken on the same?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: (*a*) Yes, Sir.

(*b*) The delay was brought to the notice of the Postal authorities. It was reported that the delay was due to the fact that the scheme was a new one and there was not sufficient staff in the Post offices to cope with the work. The Postal authorities are reported to have taken action to minimise the delay.